

**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
TOWN OF MONTAGUE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
October 14, 2021**

Franklin, ss.

To either of the Constables of the Town of Montague in the County of Franklin:

GREETING:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the Inhabitants of the Town of Montague qualified to vote in Town affairs to meet in the Turners Falls High School Theater, 222 Turnpike Road, Turners Falls, Massachusetts, on **Thursday, October 14,** 2021, at 6:30 P.M. and to act on the following articles and any motions which may be presented.

ARTICLE 1. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of **\$X**, or any other amount, for the purpose of making emergency repairs to town cemeteries, including any and all incidental and related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. (to be funded from RRA Sale of Cemetery **Lots**)

Commented [CTA1]: This will allow the Cemetery Comm to spend funds for emergency repairs without needing a reserve fund transfer or having to wait for a STM. I'm waiting for feedback from Judith Lorei on amount.

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$1,132.98, or any other amount, for the purpose of paying the prior year bill of the DCR Wood Bank Grant, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. **May drop.**

Commented [CTA2]: It looks like reimbursement request may finally move forward, which would allow us to remove this article.

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$13,367.33, or any other amount, for the purpose of paying a prior year bill of the WPCF, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. **(time sensitive)** This would be funded from WPCF Retained Earnings.

Commented [CTA3]: After the vendor was specifically asked to present all FY21 bills by 7/15, a FY21 bill was received in August, after the books had been closed.

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$1,300, or any other amount, for the purpose of increasing the Fiscal Year 2022 Finance Committee budget to allow for clerical assistance to take minutes, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. **(time sensitive)** This would be funded from Free Cash

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to rescind the unused \$102,000 borrowing authority as voted pursuant to Article #28 of the May 17, 2016 Annual Town Meeting, which appropriated \$385,000 for the purpose of abating hazardous and asbestos

containing materials within the Strathmore Mill Complex, or to pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

Commented [CTA4]: This is a housekeeping article to remove the remaining appropriation and borrowing authority for a completed project. No actual financial impact.

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide the sum of \$7719.12, or any other amount, which represents the net premium paid to the Town upon the sale of the Town's \$1,812,000 DPW Facility Bond Anticipation Note dated September 23, 2020, to pay costs of the DPW facility authorized by the vote of the Town passed March 29, 2018, and to reduce the amount authorized to be borrowed for such project by such amount, as set forth in M.G.L. c. 44, §20 or any other applicable law, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. (time sensitive)

Commented [CTA5]: Another housekeeping article, needed when Bond Premiums are received – they must be appropriated to reduce the amount of long term debt issued.

Commented [CTA6]: This is an annual appropriation, required by statute to pass the fees received from the cable contract for capital expenses to MCTV, where they are actually spent.

(Accountant Request)

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow or otherwise provide the sum of \$12,500, or any other amount, for the purpose of purchasing and installing cable related equipment for MCTV and anything incidental or related thereto, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. (time sensitive)

Commented [CTA7]: This is an annual appropriation, required by statute to pass the fees received from the cable contract for capital expenses to MCTV, where they are actually spent.

(Selectboard Request)

ARTICLE 8: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$135,000 or any other amount for the purpose of implementing the Montague City Road Flooding Relief Project, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. This would be funded from Free Cash

(Director of Planning Request)

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow or otherwise provide the sum of \$114,382, or any other amount, for the purpose of purchasing and setting up a robotic sewer camera and anything incidental or related thereto, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. This would be funded from Free Cash.

(DPW Superintendent Request)

This camera will allow the DPW to look inside the town's sewer system up to 1000ft all the time recording the footage and allow us to put it into a GIS system. We will be able to see broken pipes with ease and locate the broken pipe without having to guess where it's broken, this way we can do less digging. Due to the extended reach we will be able to use the camera to help find water leaks that are in the system and how we may be able to fix them.

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow or otherwise provide the sums of \$110,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of repaying the town for the 7/11/2018 Reserve Fund Transfer to the WPCF, or pass any vote or votes in relating thereto. (FC voted to ask SB for 5 year repayment via reduction of annual taxation subsidy). This would be funded from WPCF Retained Earnings.

Commented [CTA8]: Waiting for DOR opinion on whether we can do this.

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow or otherwise provide the sums of \$200,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of increasing the WPCF Capital Stabilization Fund, or pass any vote or votes in relating thereto. This would be funded from WPCF Retained Earnings.

Commented [CTA9]: This amount would be adjusted if it DOR says we can do Article #10 (whether in whole or part)

(Finance Committee Request)

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$500,000, or any other sum, to the Town Capital/General/OPEB Stabilization Fund, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. (article is to move extra Free Cash)

- B. Free Cash in excess of 3% of the Town’s Prior Year’s General Operating Revenues should be used for non-recurring or emergency expenditures or appropriated to the General Stabilization Fund or the Capital Improvements Stabilization Fund for future capital projects and equipment purchases. This would include funding of capital projects with an estimated cost of between \$100,000 and \$500,000 for which long term borrowing is authorized at terms of five or fewer years. Free Cash may also be used to subsidize the ensuing year’s annual operating budget. However, it is the Town’s goal to ultimately pursue a transition from using Free Cash to fund recurring operational expenses to using Free Cash to fund non-recurring expenses, such a capital expenses.

Free Cash = 1,300,210.
3% of PYGOR (\$22,480,109) = \$674,403
1,300,210 - 674,403 = 625,807.

By policy, \$625,807 should then be used in FY22 to fund capital expenses or be directed into stabilization.

Alternatively, amount used could be total Free Cash – projected STM needs – ATM budget for capital items in FY23.

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow or otherwise provide the sum of \$12,000, or any other amount,

for the purpose of repaying the town for part of the \$39,800 supplemental appropriation to the FY21 Airport Budget voted as Article 10 of the February 25, 2021 Special Town Meeting, or pass any vote or votes in relating thereto. This would be funded from Airport Retained Earnings

Commented [S-MTA10]: Waiting for word on procedures from DOR

(Airport Commission Request)

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow or otherwise provide the sums of \$45,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of repairing and painting exterior siding of the Council on Aging building, and any costs related thereto, or pass any vote or votes in relating thereto. This would be funded from a combination of a previous appropriation and Free Cash.

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow or otherwise provide the sums of \$100,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of replacing the 5th Street Pedestrian Bridge, and any costs related thereto, or pass any vote or votes in relating thereto. This would be funded from Free Cash. It's here just in case the funds needed.

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow or otherwise provide the sums of \$50,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of funding evidence-based substance abuse prevention programming with a focus on families and children, and any costs related thereto, or pass any vote or votes in relating thereto. (Cannabis Impact Funds)

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow or otherwise provide the sums of \$29,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of increasing the FY22 Dispatch Budget, or pass any vote or votes in relating thereto. (time sensitive)

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow or otherwise provide the sums of \$10,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of purchasing and installing a new phone system for Parks and Recreation, and any and all incidental and related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relating thereto.

Given under our hands this ____ day of September in the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand and Twenty One.

Christopher M. Boutwell, Sr.

Richard Kuklewicz, Chairman
Selectmen, Town of Montague

Franklin, ss Montague, MA September ____, 2021

Pursuant to the within warrant, I have warned the Inhabitants of the Town of Montague by posting attested copies of the same in a conspicuous place in each of the Post Offices, Libraries, and the Town Hall of the Town of Montague at least fourteen days before said meeting as within directed.

Constable of Montague